

## Community resources

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*courage is contagious*

## Viewing cable 08BOGOTA2506, GOC ANNOUNCES END OF MEDIATORS, SEEKS DIRECT \

If you are new to these pages, please read an introduction on the [structure of a cable](#) as well as how to [discuss them](#) with others. See also the [FAQs](#)

### Understanding cables

Every cable message consists of three parts:

- The top box shows each cables unique reference number, when and by whom it originally was sent, and what its initial classification was.
- The middle box contains the header information that is associated with the cable. It includes information about the receiver(s) as well as a general subject.
- The bottom box presents the body of the cable. The opening can contain a more specific subject, references to other cables ([browse by origin](#) to find them) or additional comment. This is followed by the main contents of the cable: a summary, a collection of specific topics and a comment section.

To understand the justification used for the classification of each cable, please use this [WikiSource](#) article as reference.

### Discussing cables

If you find meaningful or important information in a cable, please link directly to its unique reference number. Linking to a specific paragraph in the body of a cable is also possible by copying the appropriate link (to be found at the paragraph symbol). Please mark messages for social networking services like Twitter with the hash tags **#cablegate** and a hash containing the reference ID e.g. **#08BOGOTA2506**.

Reference ID	Created	Released	Classification	Origin
<a href="#">08BOGOTA2506</a>	<a href="#">2008-07-11 22:33</a>	<a href="#">2011-08-30 01:44</a>	<a href="#">CONFIDENTIAL</a>	<a href="#">Embassy Bogota</a>

Appears in these articles:

[www.letemps.ch/swiss\\_papers](http://www.letemps.ch/swiss_papers)

VZCZCXYZ0000  
PP RUEHWEB

DE RUEHBO #2506 1932233  
ZNY CCCCC ZZH  
P 112233Z JUL 08  
FM AMEMBASSY BOGOTA  
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3560  
INFO RUEHCV/AMEMBASSY CARACAS PRIORITY 0693  
RUEHLP/AMEMBASSY LA PAZ JUL 9544  
RUEHPE/AMEMBASSY LIMA PRIORITY 6353  
RUEHQT/AMEMBASSY QUITO PRIORITY 7028  
RUEHFR/AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY 1336  
RUEHMD/AMEMBASSY MADRID PRIORITY 0327  
RUEHGL/AMCONSUL GUAYAQUIL PRIORITY 4495  
RUEHGV/USMISSION GENEVA PRIORITY 1554  
RUEAIIA/CIA WASHDC PRIORITY  
RUEAWJA/DEPT OF JUSTICE WASHDC PRIORITY  
RHEFDIA/DIA WASHDC PRIORITY  
RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY  
RHEHNSC/NSC WASHDC PRIORITY

161824 2008-07-11 22:33:00 08BOGOTA2506 Embassy Bogota CONFIDENTIAL VZCZCXYZ0000\  
PP RUEHWEB\  
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DE RUEHBO #2506 1932233\  
ZNY CCCCC ZZH\  
P 112233Z JUL 08\  
FM AMEMBASSY BOGOTA\  
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3560\  
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INFO RUEHCV/AMEMBASSY CARACAS PRIORITY 0693\  
RUEHLP/AMEMBASSY LA PAZ JUL 9544\  
RUEHPE/AMEMBASSY LIMA PRIORITY 6353\  
RUEHQT/AMEMBASSY QUITO PRIORITY 7028\  
RUEHFR/AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY 1336\  
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RUEAWJA/DEPT OF JUSTICE WASHDC PRIORITY\  
RHEFDIA/DIA WASHDC PRIORITY\  
RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY\  
RHEHNSC/NSC WASHDC PRIORITY\  
C O N F I D E N T I A L BOGOTA 002506 \

SIPDIS \

E.O. 12958: DECL: 08/16/2017 \

TAGS: PHUM PGOV KJUS CO PTER PREL PREF FR SP SZ

SUBJECT: GOC ANNOUNCES END OF MEDIATORS, SEEKS DIRECT \  
CONTACT WITH FARC \

Classified By: Political Counselor John S. Creamer. \

Reason: 1.4 (b,d) \

¶1. (C) Summary: On July 8, President Uribe formally \  
notified the European Ambassadors that he was terminating \  
European facilitation efforts with the FARC, emphasizing that \  
the decision reflected GOC concerns with facilitators Jean \  
Pierre Gontard and Noel Saez rather than \  
government-to-government issues. XXXXXXXXXXXX had previously announced that the GOC would \  
seek direct contacts with the FARC because the GOC had lost \  
confidence in Gontard and Saez. French Ambassador Jean \  
Michel Marlaud told the Ambassador that Gontard and Saez met \  
with the commander of the FARC's 29th front on June 29, but \  
returned to Europe after failing to meet with FARC senior \  
commander Alfonso Cano. XXXXXXXXXXXX told us the GOC sent a \  
message to Secretariat members Pablo Catatumbo and Cano three \  
weeks ago seeking direct contact. End summary. \

¶2. (U) XXXXXXXXXXXX said during a radio interview that the GOC would seek to \  
establish direct contacts with the FARC because it had lost \  
confidence in Swiss facilitator Jean Pierre Gontard and \  
French official Noel Saez. He added that Gontard and Saez \  
had acted more like political advisers to the FARC than \  
honest brokers. XXXXXXXXXXXX also said the computer files found \  
at Raul Reyes' camp suggested that Gontard had transported \  
\$480,000 from Colombia to Costa Rica for the FARC. \

¶3. (C) French Ambassador Jean Michel Marlaud told the \  
Ambassador on July 7 that Gontard and Saez arrived in Bogota \  
on June 25 -- based on email contacts with the FARC and \  
previous communication with an Ecuadorian contact in Quito -- \  
with the expectation they would meet with senior FARC leader \  
Alfonso Cano in Cauca department. After receiving the green \  
light from XXXXXXXXXXXX and Defense Minister Juan Manuel Santos, \  
they proceeded to Pasto (Narino department) on June 27. On \  
June 29, Gontard and Saez met with the commander of the \  
FARC's 29th front, who identified himself as "JJ." "JJ" \  
said Cano was interested in speaking with them, but could not \  
meet for at least three days. Saez and Gontard decided \  
against waiting in the jungle and departed Bogota on June 30. \  
Marlaud said they did not brief the GOC prior to departure. \

¶4. (C) At a July 8 meeting with WHA Assistant Secretary \  
Thomas Shannon, President Uribe told us he had formally \  
notified the European Ambassadors earlier that day that he \  
was ending European facilitation efforts. Uribe explained \  
this was not a government-to-government issue but rather a \  
GOC concern with the two mediators themselves. He said the \  
Europeans accepted the message gracefully. \

¶5. (C) XXXXXXXXXXXX told us on July 10 that the GOC no longer \  
considers international or domestic facilitators to be useful \  
or necessary. The GOC has a reliable communications channel \  
with Secretariat members Pablo Catatumbo and Cano, and sent a \  
message to Catatumbo three weeks ago asking if the FARC \  
wanted to initiate contact. The GOC is prepared to send an \  
emissary to meet with the group if the answer is affirmative. \  
XXXXXXXXXXXX said the purpose of the outreach is to determine if \  
the FARC can be led into serious peace talks. In the past, \

Catatumbo and Cano had voiced interest in meeting with the \  
GOC but had said they could not do so without Secretariat \  
approval. XXXXXXXXXXXX voiced doubt that the overture would \  
produce real results. A key test of the FARC's intentions \  
would be their willingness to meet with him. The FARC has \  
previously asserted that it would never negotiate with \  
XXXXXXXXXXXXX. \  
BROWNFIELD \